SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ : Sir, I move :

"That the Bill be returned."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SYED SIBTEY RAZI) : I shall now put the motion regarding consideration of the High Court and Supreme Court Judges (Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill, 1993, to vote.

The question is :

"That the Bill further to amend the High Court Judges (Conditions of Service) Act, 1954 and the Supreme Court Judges (Conditions of Services) Act, 1958, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SYED SIBTEY RAZI) : We shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ : Sir, I beg to move :

"That the Bill be returned."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

THE INLAND WATERWAYS AUTHORITY OF INDIA (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1993

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SYED SIBTEY RAZI) : We shall now take up the Inland Waterways Authority of India (Amendment) Bill, 1993. There were two or three speakers. But they have agreed that this is a non-controversial Bill and it could be passed without discussion. Since only Mr. Ashis Sen wants to speak, he can speak. Now, the Minister to move the Bill.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : Sir, I beg to move :

"That the Bill to amend the Inland Waterways Authority of India Act, 1985, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The question was proposed.

SHRI ASHIS SEN (West Bengal) : Sir, considering the pressure of time, I would like to confine myself within two or three minutes.

I support this Bill because it ends the dichotomy between the Inland Waterways Authority of India Act and the Indian Vessels Act as far as determining the breight and are of the passengers is concerned. While supporting this Bill, I would like to point out certain things. Our country is full of riverine infrastructure which could be fully utilized for the purpose of transport of goods and passengers in our country. But, while mentioning this, I would like to say that there is the Raja Bagan Dockyard in the Garden Reach area of Calcutta which manufactures and produces steamers and small shipping vessels which feed the various ports in the country. But I find today that in spite of there being thousands of skilled workers and engineers, full utilization of that Dockyard is not being made. Even though we would like to have improvement and betterment of the waterways, I would like to request the Minister to see, while abolishing this dichotomy, that the purpose for which this is being done is served and that most of the small vessels and steamers are ordered for from the Raja Bagan Dockyard in the

Garden Reach area of Calcutta which would be able to feed most of our ports with small vessels.

Thank you very much, and I support this Bill.

Some HON MEMBERS : What is the Ministry's reaction ?

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : Of course. I will consider it.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SYED SIBTEY RAZI) : I shall now put the motion to vote.

The question is :

"That the Bill to amend the Inland Waterways Authority of India Act, 1985, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SYED SIBTEY RAZI) : We shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clauses 2 & 3 *were added to the Bill.*

Clause 1, *the Enacting Formula, and the Title were added to the Bill.*

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : Sir, I beg to move :

That the Bill be passed.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SYED SIBTEY RAZI) : Now, there is a statement by the Agriculture Minister.

SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM (Uttar Pradesh) : Sir, let the clarifications be tomorrow.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Pondicherry) : Sir, it is a very important matter. We should discuss it today. We are the affected people.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SYED SIBTEY RAZI) : Mr. Minister, please proceed. .... (*Interuptions*) .... Mr. Gautam, please. The Minister is on his legs.

Yes, Mr. Minister.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Situation Arising out of recent cyclonic storm and floods Particularly in Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry and the relief and rehabilitation Measures taken by the Government.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I seek leave of the House to make a statement on the situation arising out of recent cyclonic storn and floods, particularly in Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry and the relief and rehabilitation measures taken by the Government.

2. As the Members are all aware, the east and west coasts of India are highly prone to tropical cyclones arising in the Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea. On an average, about 5—6 tropical cyclones form in the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea every year, out of which 2—3 become severe.

3. A cyclonic storm developed over the Bay of Bengal on 2nd December, 1993 intensified into a servere cyclonic storm on the next day. This, with a core of hurricane winds crossed the Tamil Nadu coast around 11.00 hrs. on 4th December, 1993 near Karaikal in Pondicherry. Under its influence, coastal areas of Tamil Nadu experienced heavy rains, strong winds and high seas. The monsoon which accompanies the cyclonic storm caused heavy rainfall in the coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh and Pondicherry also. The intense rainfall accompanied by high velocity winds resulted in flash floods, floods in the rivers and plains and sea erosion in the affected areas.